Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 1, 2014

President – Craig Bigler KB3LBU
Vice President – Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Secretary/Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD

Board Members for 2014:

1. Craig Bigler KB3LBU
2. Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
3. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
4. Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
5. Larry Freeman N3LT
6. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
7. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
8. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
9. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

Craig KB3LBU called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm local time.

Approval of meeting minutes for March 2014:

Bill W3LAB Moved to accept the minutes for the March meeting.
Larry N3LT Seconded the motion.
Motion was voted on and passed.

Financial Report:

Terry KB3JOD
Opening balance For March 2014 was announced
Electric Bill (for March) -$51.07
50/50 drawing (for March) +$22
Liability Insurance Premium -$320.00
Closing balance for March is announced

Dave KA3KFA made a motion to accept the financial report
Phil K3PJ seconded the motion
The motion to accept the financial report was passed

Monday Night Net update: (146.91MHz – 20:00)

If you are interested in being a Net Control Station, please contact the Net Coordinator Roger N3ULC.
Roger was not present to give a report on the Net on the 444.975 - PL (110.9) Repeater: but, the repeater was working good at the beginning of the net but as the net went on the signal from the repeater grew weaker and weaker. Elmer KB3WG said that he will take a look at it.
Again Roger N3ULC was not present to give a report on the simplex net on the county's simplex frequency of 147.570MHz. But contacts on Simplex is very limited.

Monday Nite NBEMS Practice: (146.91MHz – 20:30)

The NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) will be at 8:30pm, after the Monday nite net. Everyone is welcome to join in. We usually start with voice and then pass messages back and forth to each other. It's a great way to tune up your Fldigi and to gain experience in case there is an emergency. Don't wait until the last minute to figure out how to use Fldigi.

Everyone interested should download and install the latest revisions of software;

(as of 3/23/14 they are as follows)

FLdigi ~~3.21.80~~ 3.21.82
FLamp 2.1.02
FLmsg ~~1.1.34~~ 2.0.3

Information:

Rusty WB3EUQ – contact information

Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital. He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is **(814) 695-1635**. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone **(724) 388-1202**.

Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

When you go: when you come to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.

As of March 23rd, Rusty is not doing well. He has lost a lot of weight and is not able to communicate very well.

Dennis Whitson, KB3LBQ, is Scenery Hill Manor and is in a very similar condition.

VE Testing: (April 5, October 4)

The dates are listed on the ARRL web site (The first Saturday in April and October).
The need for more publicity for the VE testing was discussed (like announcing it on the Monday nite net).
There were 7 people that said that they would be interested in helping to teach a class this coming fall. More details will need to be discussed.
There were no candidates for the April test session.
The Tech class question pool will change this July.

Facebook page:

ICARC has a facebook page now. Search for Indiana County Amateur Radio Club on facebook and click on the Like button and or leave a comment. Facebook page address - **https://www.facebook.com/w3bmd** . There is also a link at the top of the Club's web page (**http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/**) that looks like the following icon.

Phil K3PJ asked about posting some of the pictures from the tower repair on the face book page. The general consenses was that it is ok as long as no names are posted.

Business:

Posting of the club roster:

Anyone interested may pick up a hard copy of the clubs roster at the meeting. If you cannot make the meeting and would still like a copy of the roster please email Terry KB3JOD at carnahanterry(at)gmail(dot)com and an email copy will be sent to you.

Repeater News:
Reminder to keep an eye out for an alternative site for repeater (just in case).

Joe KC3CDG was in Prospect, PA and was able to key up the .91 repeater with his Boafeng handheld while he was inside his truck (that's a little over 55 miles as the crow flies, according to google earth).

Everyone is encouraged to use the 146.91 repeater & 444.975 (PL: 110.9) repeater (i.e. when in your vehicle, put out your call sign. Don't just listen, talk, talk, talk.)

Fund Raisers:
Hoss's Diner Kits

4 different kits are available (Chicken noodle soup, Beef noodle soup, Spaghetti & meatballs, and Chicken alfredo), there is a 5 to 10 kit minimum, There is a 1 week lead time, the kits must remain frozen, Shelf live is up to one year if continuously frozen, there is approximately a 37% profit for the club on each kit sold, each kit cost $15, the diner kit fund raiser may be held once a month. For more information go to WWW.HOSSFUNDRAISERS.COM.

Fred KM3M made a motion for Carl K3PIE to check on available dates for the Spring Cash Cow fundraiser.
Bill N3QM suggested that we do one order to see how it goes. Several members present said that they would be willing to order 1 or 2 kits. A motion was not made but it was a general decision of the members to go ahead with the order.
Hold a Ham Fest next year –

KB3LBU, N3LT, and KM3M went to Mack Park and talked to them about the Mack Foundation Pavilion as a potential site for a Ham fest. There are 14 10 foot long tables there. Electricity is also available. This site is fairly available in April since not much is going on there. The bathrooms would be open. There is plenty of parking. It would cost $150 to rent for 1 day. They suggested that if we have a Ham Fest there that instead of calling it admission fee we call it a donation. The only draw back seen is that there are only 2 – 20 amp circuits in the area for the food concessions. Since most of the money from a ham fest is from the concessions this could be a problem.

New Business:

Activities for 2014:

ARES:
Our annual Western PA ARES Emcomm Conference at Pitt-Johnstown has been scheduled for Saturday June 14, 2014. Mark your calendars!

Attention: Indiana County is in need of an official A.R.E.S. Emergency Coordinator (EC). The current assistant ECs are Jerry KB3DUD, Roger N3ULC, and Terry KB3JOD.
If anyone would like to take the position of the A.R.E.S. EC for Indiana County please contact one of the assistant ECs listed above. The only requirements for A.R.E.S. EC is that a person have an valid amateur license (Tech or higher) and be a full member of the ARRL.

Airport Awareness Days: also June 14th and June 15th
There is a meeting March 13th at the Airport at 5:30pm. Several members will attend.
The EOC antenna trailer is available for us to use.
A signup sheet was passed around the following members signed it;

Craig KB3LBU, Bill W3LAB, Elmer KB3WG, Fred KM3M, Carl N3PIE, Joe KC3CDG, Larry N3LT, Dave KA3KFA, Marcia KD4ITP (limited), Phil K3PJ (Fri. setup & Sun. at noon), Terry KB3JOD (Fri. setup & Sun. at noon)

Field Day: June 28th and 29th.
It was decided that Field day be held at the repeater site. There is a possibility of a second location at the I.C. EOC.

Ham Radio demonstration for Cub Scouts (1st grade to 5th grade) at Camp Seth Mack:
3 antennas will be put up; a 20 meter and a 40 meter dipole antennas and a G5RV antenna.
June 11 – setup late afternoon
June 12, - 9am to noon and 1pm to 4:30pm operating – 4:30 tear down.
A signup sheet was passed around. The following members signed it;

Carl N3PIE, Dave KA3KFA, Larry N3LT (before 1pm & after 3pm), Fred KM3M (June 11), Phil K3PJ (June 11), Bill W3LAB (June 12), Phil K3PJ (June 12), Doug K3LAB.

MS Walk: April 26
Terry KB3JOD contacted Julie, the MS Walk contact person. She would like us to help with radio support. Please note that this is on a Saturday this year and not a Sunday like last year.
Registration begins at 1:00pm and the walk will begin at 2:00pm.
We will need approximately 12 radio operators to staff this event properly.
If you can help out please let us know at the next club meeting or contact one of the clubs officers.
A signup sheet was passed around. The following members signed it;

Terry KB3JOD, Doug K3LAB, Dave KA3KFA, Craig KB3LBU, Bill W3LAB, Elmer DB3WG, Larry N3LT, Alton N3PHL, Phil K3PJ, Fred KM3M, Carl N3PIE, Joe KC3CDG, Dave KA3KFA

Programs / Presentations During 2014:

January presentation – Open
February presentation – Carl N3PIE-- Evergreen Conservancy
March's presentation – Indiana County EMA – Tom Stutzman
April's presentation – Open
May's presentation – Open
June's presentation – Open
July's presentation – Open
August presentation – Open
September presentation - Open
October presentation – Open
November presentation Open
December presentation – Open

If anyone would like to give a presentation during a club meeting, please contact any of the club officers.

50/50:

Bill W3LAB won the 50/50 drawing. A total of $25.00 was collected.
Bill donated $23.50 back into the club.
Thank you Bill!

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The meeting was closed at 9:30pm local time.

Calendar of Events:

April 5 – VE Test

April 26 – MS Walk

June 11,12 – Ham Radio Demo for Scouts

June 14 – ARES Emcomm Conference, UPJ

June 14,15 – Airport Awareness Days

June 28,29 – Field Day

October 4 – VE Test

Meeting Attendance:

(x) Craig Bigler – KB3LBU *(President)*
(x) Terry Carnahan – KB3JOD *(secretary/Treasure)*
(x) Doug Fitzsimmons – K3LAB *(Vice President)*
(x) Larry Freeman – N3LT *(Board member)*
(x) Carl Hvozda – N3PIE *(Board member)*
(x) Phil Kopczyk – K3PJ *(Board member)*
(x) Fred Maize – KM3M
(x) Marcia Malcolm – KD4ITP
(x) Bill Menk – W3LAB
(x) Bill McMillen – N3QM
(x) Joe Rankin KC3CDG
(x) Elmer Sorisio – KB3WG *(Board member and Repeater Trustee)*
(x) Dave Steiner – KA3KFA
(x) Alton Strong – N3PHL